

## FACSIMILE

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**Remarks:**

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Charlotte, NC  
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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. 10/525,290 Customer No.: 24,239  
Inventors/Applicants : Nnochiri N. Ekwuribe  
Filed : July 18 2005  
TC/A.U. : 1621  
Confirmation No. : 7808  
Examiner : Chukwuma O. Nwaonicha  
Atty. Docket No. : 014811-215.116  
Title : ARYL CARBAMATE OLIGOMERS FOR HYDROLYZABLE  
PRODRUGS AND PRODRUGS COMPRISING SAME

FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT RESPONSIVE TO APRIL 5, 2007 OFFICE  
ACTION IN U.S. PATENT NO. 10/525,290

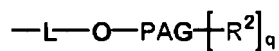
Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the second telephonic conversation with Examiner Nwaonicha on September 6, 2007, applicants make the following comments.

According to Examiner Nwaonicha, terminology in Claim 1 is indefinite. Specifically, there is a question relating to the meaning of the term "PAG" as set forth in claim 1

Olig is an oligomer having a formula:



PAG is a linear or branched polyalkylene glycol moiety;

and further the meaning of "q" which is described in claim 1 as follows:

q is a number from 1 to the maximum number of branches on PAG;

Atty. Docket No. 014811-215.116  
Application. No. 10/525,290

Applicants insist that one skilled in the art would have no trouble understanding the meaning of either element as recited in claim 1. Initially, it should be noted that this is well explained in the text of the application in paragraphs 78 and 80, as recreated below for ease of discussion.

[0078] PAG may be a linear or branched polyalkylene glycol moiety. Preferred polyalkylene glycol moieties include linear or branched polyethylene glycol and linear or branched polypropylene glycol. In some embodiments, the polyethylene glycol or polypropylene glycol is non-polydispersed, monodispersed, substantially monodispersed, purely monodispersed, or substantially purely monodispersed, as these terms are described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/873,797, filed Jun. 4, 2001, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0080] If the PAG moiety is branched, then the number  $q$  of  $R^2$  moieties present in the oligomer is limited to the number of branches on the branched PAG. For example,  $q$  may be suitably 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10. In some embodiments PAG has 2, 3, 4, or 5 branches, and  $q$  is respectively 2, 3, 4 or 5. In another embodiment, PAG has 2 branches and  $q$  is 2. Where  $q$  is greater than 1, each instance of  $R^2$  may be the same or may be different. For example, if  $q$  is 3, 2 instances of  $R^2$  may be  $C_2$  and one may be  $C_7$ .

Further, any undergraduate student taking an organic class in the United States is well versed in a branched or linear PEG molecule. Applicants have provided some examples of branched PAG molecules to alleviate any confusion although this should not be necessary because the text in the specification and knowledge known to an undergraduate student should be sufficient. For example the PEG could be a double branched as shown below:



Could be a triple branched

